Problems of urbanisation

1806. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Wll the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing problems of public health and environmental hazards due to rapid urbanisation in the country; and

(b) if so, what action plan has been taken up so far to cope up with this situation, perticularly in the Mega Cities of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to developing strategies for critical areas of the urban environment, water supply, sewerage, drainage and sanitation, solid waste management, air pollution and institutional capacity building, studies have recently been conducted jointly by the Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment and the Ministry of Environment and Forests. A Centrally sponsored scheme of infrastructure development in mega cities has been introduced from 1993-94 with the following financing pattern—25% State Grant: 25% Central Grant: 50% institutional Finance. The scheme assists selected cities with more than 4 million population as per the 1991 census in the development of infrastructure including measures to tackle the problems of public health and environmental hazards.

Wasteland Brought under Cultivation

1807. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the area of wasteland actually put to use and brought under cultivation since the formation of the Department of Wasteland Development in July, 1992;

(b) the fate and present status of the 50 projects which were taken up under the Integrated Wasteland Development Project Scheme in watersheds having predominant non-forest wasteland; and

(c) the future plans and programme of Government for wasteland development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Since the formation of the Department of Wastelands Development in July, 1992, a total of Rupees 181.67 crores has been released for development of 2.20 lakh ha. wastelands. The Department of Wastelands was created with the mandate to develop wastelands in non-forest area and checking land degradation putting wastelands in the country to sustainable use and increasing bio-mass availability specially fuelwood and fodder. Wastelands are degraded lands which are currently under utilised and deterioting for lack of proper water and soil management on account of natural causes. Therefore, agricultural operations are not possible on such lands at the first stage of development.

The Department of Wastelands have a mandate to develop wastelands rather than to convert wastelands which can be put to use for cultivation.

(b) Under the Integraded Wastelands Development Project Scheme, the Department of Wastelands development have so far sanctioned 138 projects. Out of these 138 projects, 3 projects have been completed and the remaining are going-on with a total outlay of Rs. 349.29 crores for taking up development of watersheds having predominant non-forest westelands.

(c) The Department of Wastelands Development is implementing the following schemes:—

(i) Integrated Wastelands Development Project Scheme.

(ii) Grant-in-Aid Scheme.

(iii) Technology Extension, Development and Training Scheme.

(iv) Wastelands Development Task Force.

(v) Investment Promotional Scheme.

The main activities under these schemes includes:

(i) Soil and Moisture Conservation.

(ii) Plantation including Block Plantation.

(iii) Agro Forestry including Horticulture.

(iv) Fodder development.

(v) Awareness raising.

These activitiers are generally implemented on a watershed basis on both Community and Private wastelands.

Waiving of clearance to power projects

1808. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times of the 4th June, 1996 captioned. "Central clearance for Power Projects may be waived";

(b) if so, what are the guidelines issued to expedite progress of projects in the power sector; and

(c) what was the target fixed for generation of additional electricity during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGUPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have issued no guidelines in this respect. However, to streamline and simplify the procedure for clearances for the power projects, Government have enhanced the limit of capital expenditure of the schemes requiring concurrence of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 400 crores in case of generating schemes selected through a process of competitive bidding. Further, two stage clearance, *viz.,* "in principle" clearance followed by tcchno-economic clearance has been introduced. The guidelines for submitting the detailed project reports for the appraisal and clearance by the CEA have also been issued. This has helped in faster clearance of power proposals.

(c) The capacity addition target of 30,538 MW was approved for the Eighth Five Year Plan period. During the first four years, upto March, 1996, the achievement has been 14796 MW.

मध्य प्रदेश में भू-जल के स्तर का गिरना

1809. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश के पठारी क्षेत्रों में भू-जल का स्तर निरन्तर गिरता जा रहा है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप गांवों में कई हैण्ड पम्प निष्क्रिय हो गए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ऐसे क्षेत्रों में पेयजल की आपूर्ति बनाए रखने तथा भू-जल के स्तर को गिरने से रोकने हेतु क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है

(ग) क्या मध्य प्रदेश सरकार द्वारा कुछ जिलों की भू-जल संवर्धन संबंधी योजनाएं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय को भेजी गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो मंत्रालय को कितनी योजनाएं भेजी गई हैं और उनकी लागत क्या है;

(ङ) ये योजनाएं कब से लम्बित पड़ी हैं और इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(च) क्या सरकार प्राथमिकता के आधार पर इन योजनाओं को स्वीकृति प्रदान करेगी?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सरकार ने भूमिगत जल की अत्यधिक निकासी और उससे उत्पन्न अभाव के प्रतिशत के आधार पर गहरे एवं धूसर क्षेत्रों का पता लगाया है।